

IOWA BIRD LIFE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

VOL. XXVIII

DECEMBER, 1958

NO. 4



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$2.00 a year. Single copies 50c each. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$2.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA



WHIP-POOR-WILL NESTING SITE

AERIAL VIEW (UPPER): "... A SMALL TRIANGLE OF WOODLAND CUT OFF FROM THE MAIN WOODS BY A CURVE OF THE ROAD."

LOWER: "... NEST WAS AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS AT THE TOP OF A 20-FOOT SLOPE FACING SOUTH TO THE ROAD."

A NESTING OF THE WHIP-POOR-WILL IN IOWA COUNTY

By FRED W. KENT

7 East Market St.
IOWA CITY, IOWA
and

ROBERT F. VANE

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

(With photographs by Fred W. Kent)

It had long been the hope of the authors to find a Whip-poor-will nest, particularly for one of us who clearly remembers having been on a family picnic a good many years ago which was high-lighted by the broken-wing performance of a nesting Whip-poor-will.

During the past summer the hope of finding a nest was realized. From June 22, 1958, when a pair of Whip-poor-wills was flushed in an area which became their nesting territory, through July 27, when the young were last seen in the area, an interesting and exciting story was presented to us.

In the Iowa River valley near the picturesque Amana villages, large areas of woodland still exist. In driving through the woodland areas at night in spring and early summer, the timber resounds with the calling of Whip-poor-wills. Many times they may be seen in the auto lights and calling from the roadway itself. In such circumstances their eyes, reflecting the headlights, literally shine from the darkness. The auto may even be maneuvered to a stop only 10 or 15 feet from the bird which by then is brightly illuminated in the circle of the headlights.

On such a drive through the Amana timber on the evening of May 21, 1958, several pairs of singing Whip-poor-wills were heard. One pair particularly was calling from a small triangle of woodland cut off from the main woods by a curve of the road, and a mental note was made to revisit the area at a later time actually to search for the birds.

Such an opportunity presented itself on June 22 when one of us (Vane) and Miss Lillian Serbousek of Cedar Rapids visited the area and had the good fortune to flush two Whip-poor-wills from the triangle of woods. An hour's search revealed no nest, but we were elated at even flushing a pair of the birds. A return trip three days later on June 25 brought full success, when the female was flushed from her nest and one egg was disclosed. Undoubtedly it was an egg which had been laid since our prior visit—otherwise, we reasoned, she would have been incubating it when we had been there before. In other words, we had come upon the very beginning of a nest.

Another trip was made June 29 when a stealthy, quiet approach showed the bird to be incubating though almost indistinguishable from its surroundings with its protective coloration and with its eyes nearly closed. At times when looking at it through binoculars, we could hardly believe it was a bird at all. Nevertheless it did flush to disclose two eggs present when we approached to within 8 feet.

Our trips to the nest now began in earnest. In all, at least 18 trips were made to the nesting area, a distance of about 24 miles from each of the authors' homes. At least 12 of these trips were during the actual nesting of the Whip-poor-will and rearing of the young. Four of the trips were evening visits. Most trips occupied three to four hours and observations ranged from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

THE AREA

As mentioned, the nest was found in the Amana woods, specifically the northeast corner of the main body of woods on the Iowa-Johnson County

line. A small triangle of woods (30x100 yards) had been cut off from the main woods by a curve of the road. The area, essentially an oak ridge, is at the edge of the Iowa River flood-plain with open fields to the north and the river with a border of timber $\frac{3}{4}$ miles away. Mixed hardwoods, mostly white oak, predominated in this ungrazed triangle of woodland with some down timber, brush and a mixed understory.

THE NEST

Location of the nest was in a semi-open glade at the edge of the woods and at the top of a 20-foot slope facing south to the road. Fallen logs were to one side of the nest and brush on the other. The nest itself was about a foot from the base of a small oak sapling (5 feet), on a patch of dry oak leaves with some very sparse grass growth around. The two eggs were located in only a very slight depression in the leaves. The area above the nest was clear, apparently for incoming flight as the birds always came directly into the nest and settled from above. Later, when the young had been moved, the second and third locations were very similar.

BEHAVIOR DURING INCUBATION

Behavior patterns during incubation for purposes of this paper will be divided into day-time and night-time behavior. Behavior pattern seemed rather constant. Incubation during the daylight hours was always done, in our observation, by the female. Upon our approach to the nest she appeared completely motionless, eyes half closed, sitting on the eggs. Upon our



FEMALE WHIP-POOR-WILL. — "... SHE WOULD ALIGHT ON A BRANCH OF THE BRUSH PILE. . . EYES DIRECTLY ON US." (A telescope photograph at about 30 feet).



UPPER PHOTOGRAPH: "... BIRD INCUBATING. . . ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE. . . WITH ITS PROTECTIVE COLORATION. . . AND EYES NEARLY CLOSED."

LOWER: NEST "ON A PATCH OF DRY OAK LEAVES. . . IN A VERY SLIGHT DEPRESSION." (June 29, four days after first egg)

closer approach to 8 or 10 feet she would flush, springing into the air without a sound like a large brown moth. As incubation went on, the distance she flushed became less and less, as did the time required for her return to the nest. During our first visits she flew into a distant portion of the triangle of woods and required more than 45 minutes to return. As time went on, her period for return dropped to five or six minutes and she simply flushed to a brush pile to one side and back of the nest.

Her short, rounded wings would lift her directly off the nest. With a turn or two she would alight on a branch of the brush pile, crosswise on occasion with wings drooping, eyes directly on us. Then she would turn on her small pink feet lengthwise on the limb, now and then uttering a low guttural "cluck" accompanied by a raising of the head and a body jerk. While perched in this manner she would allow close approach, and movies were taken from as near as 12 feet. Flash pictures taken from 3 feet while the bird was on the nest from a previously placed camera did not bother her at all.

For night-time behavior we quote from Vane's notes of July 12, 1958: "Drove out to meet Fred and Pete (Dr. Peter Laude) at the Whip-poor-will nest. A beautiful sunset was lighting up the western sky, Wood Thrushes were singing, 'Stay-o-way' was excellent for mosquitoes, and I was comfortable in my green armchair.

"Arrived at 7:45 and at 7:54 first Whip-poor-will started singing from south of road. Within moments a second call came from north of road, not nearly as loud, a softer quality. Did the female answer from the nest? It certainly seemed so.

"At 8:04 the Whip-poor-will from south of road flew noiselessly across to flutter down into the nest area. Then a Whip-poor-will flew back across the road to the south side. Had they changed places on the eggs? Indeed they had, and the change was followed by intermittent calling and clucking.

"Fred and Pete arrived about 8:20 laden with flashlights, red filters and cameras. We proceeded up to the nest using both red searchlight and ordinary flashlight. How the bird's eyes shone! As we approached it this first time the male bird flushed from the nest, hovering over our heads, and in the twilight we could plainly see the white tail feathers of the male. It first perched in a cluster of oak leaves over our heads clucking, then soon flew to a dead branch over the nesting area alighting lengthwise. Again we shone its eyes with the flashlight and red filter. Again it flew and we retired to the road.

"After a few minutes of visiting we returned to the nest, this time with the strong spotlight, jacklighting the bird as it incubated the eggs. Fred crept up to within 3 feet of the bird and shot several flash shots. We then retired without flushing it."

Aside from low flights over the road, night-feeding patterns were never seen.

BEHAVIOR WITH YOUNG

On our afternoon visit to the nest on July 16 the female was first flushed from about 10 feet. She was reluctant to leave and flew only to a nearby branch (10 feet) in the brush pile. There she put on a broken-wing act, drooping both wings, perching crosswise on the limb and clucking about every 10 seconds. As we approached her she fluttered farther away to a dark tangle about 50 feet from the nest. There, perched on a limb lengthwise, she would wait for us to leave.

The reason for her concern on this date was the presence of a cinnamon brown Whip-poor-will chick—not an exact match for the oak leaves by any means, just a downy ball of fluff complete with egg tooth, tiny pink feet and with eyes still closed. The incubation period seemed to be 20-21 days, the same as mentioned in the literature.



NEWLY-HATCHED YOUNG "JUST A DOWNY BALL OF FLUFF COMPLETE WITH EGG TOOTH, TINY PINK FEET AND WITH EYES STILL CLOSED." (JULY 16)



BOTH YOUNG -- ABOUT 4 FEET FROM THE SITE OF THE NEST. (JULY 20)

The parent bird put on a broken-wing act when first flushed but at subsequent times flew only to the nearby brush pile and waited for us to retire, clucking from time to time. She returned to the nest about 5, 7 or 10 minutes after we left the area. We could tell when she was about to return as she would turn at right angles to the branch before taking off. The return was directly to the nest, quickly and silently.

Subsequent visits showed a similar pattern of behavior with two young being present on July 20.

For night-time behavior in the presence of young we again quote from Vane's notes of July 23, 1958.

"Jean (Mrs. Vane) and I started for the nest about 6:45, arriving there just before sunset at 7:30. We quickly placed a ladder near the nest so that I could sit up rather high to watch developments. Surprisingly enough, the two chicks had been moved and the female bird flushed from the two young which were now on the other side of the oak sapling about 4 feet from the original site.

"Fred and Clara (Mrs. Kent) then arrived and after greeting them I returned to my position on the ladder with mosquito netting, 'Stay-O-way' and a red flashlight. It had been reported that a red light would not bother birds at night and we wanted to try it in hope of seeing a feeding procedure, but to no avail. At 7:50 a few calls came from across the road; a few answering 'clucks' came from the female which had not returned to the nest and within moments the male came flying in close to me on my ladder. With a few low 'whups' he called together the chicks which had dispersed as we had taken pictures of them on Fred's arrival. The young were very active and would jump out of the nest area, and in fact were now showing small quill feathers on their wings.

"The little chicks answered the male's call note with soft notes which sounded like whispered 'will, wills'. Then in order to see what was going



YOUNG WHIP-POOR-WILL IN THE HAND (JULY 27)



YOUNG IN NEST PROTECTIVELY COLORED



MALE WHIP-POOR-WILL HOVERING IN AIR. EXPANDED TAIL
WITH WHITE AREAS SHOWING UP VIVIDLY.
(A "Strobe" flash at 1/1000 second and copied from a color stereo).

on in the gathering dusk, I turned on the flashlight which immediately flushed the male.

"At once a beautiful display began. The adult male flew toward me on the ladder approaching within 5 feet. Then he hovered in mid-air in a vertical position, wings rapidly beating, the expanded white tail showing up vividly in the dim light, acting for all the world like a giant hummingbird.

"He would then retire to a branch in the adjacent brush pile, perching crosswise with drooping wings and spread tail. In addition to his 'whip' or 'whup' note the male sometimes uttered a completely different note, 'Churr, churr' rolling the 'r'. Then in a moment he would be up again to repeat the performance.

"Calling to Fred, he came on the scene to take 'strobe' shots of the bird poised in the air. Meanwhile the female remained in the background, only occasionally moving moth-like about but in no sense going through the hovering display of the male. She could always be found by 'eye shine' when we scoured the woods with flashlights.

"Meanwhile Fred was out of film; so back to the car to reload and a return to the nest with Jean and Clara. Again the male which had not yet returned to brood the young went through his aggressive display. Again he hovered, again he spread his tail and wings, again we shone his eyes with both red and white lights. Ultimately the birds retreated farther from the nest area, the female perching high on a dead branch, the male retreating across the road where we could hear him calling 'Whip-poor-will' and also 'whup-whup-whup' in the light of the half moon.

"We retreated to the road and after a time the call note of the bird indicated he was again back at the nest. We returned there to again flush the male and see the female in the vicinity. This time the display of the male was not nearly as aggressive. However, a picture or two was added before they retired in the distance.

"It was now 10:30. Presumably the parent birds were out feeding to gather food for the young. How did they feed them? This was a question which we could not answer. But we did learn that the male bird both



FEMALE WHIP POOR-WILL FLUSHING AT CLOSE RANGE.
(A "Strobe" shot in daylight while swinging on the target — causing blurred background).

incubated the eggs and brooded the young, taking his place soon after sun-down.

"And so a pattern of behavior emerged, and as we drove home we knew we would long remember our vivid night visit to the Whip-poor-will nest."

MOVING OF YOUNG

On July 27 we saw the young for the last time. They were now at least seven and eleven days old and not to be found anywhere near the hatching area. To find the young, we started a systematic search of the area and Pete Laude finally flushed the female, along with hordes of mosquitoes, some 40 feet from the original nest site. Careful search disclosed the young on a patch of dry leaves in a small opening of knee-high vegetation.

The young, now nearly half grown, showed a well defined pattern of spots and markings which blended so well with the leaves that they were almost invisible. Side by side but facing opposite directions they remained completely immobile while we took pictures. But when we stooped to pick one up, it scrambled away with half-open wings and disappeared right before our eyes into the vegetation. We posed it on a small log for more pictures and also saw it open its mouth several times—an enormous cavern. During all this time the female remained on top of a 20-foot stump some distance away without moving or clucking. When we left the area the young birds were huddled together where we had found them.

A week later the woods was revisited, and though we searched thoroughly, it yielded no young Whip-poor-wills—nothing but hungry mosquitoes.

Three other trips were made at dusk during August evenings. On August 4, two birds were seen flying back and forth along the edge of the woods, with several calling from either side of the road. It was almost certain that four birds were located in the area.

On August 21, calls were heard in the area but only four or five at a time, and on August 28 a few calls were heard coming from the deep woods at dusk.

Our summer experiences with the Whip-poor-wills were now over, but as mentioned before, we knew we would long remember the pleasant field trips and the vivid night visits to the nest of this interesting bird.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS IN IOWA

By M. L. JONES

Fort Defiance State Park
ESTHERVILLE, IOWA

On November 21, 1958, Dennis Carter and I spent most of the day birding in the area from Estherville to and including Spirit Lake. The Snow Buntings found on the lake shore at MiniWakan Park were a good-enough find to make the day worthwhile, but three Bohemian Waxwings at Swan Lake (Dickinson County, 2 miles north of the town of Superior) made it a day to be long remembered.

We had just stopped the car to check on what we expected to be Harris' Sparrows, since I had frequently seen some in the multiflora rose hedge along the north shore of the lake, when Dennis announced "Waxwings!" Being on the wrong side of the car, I made a hasty exit and said to Dennis: "Make it Bohemian. I've never seen one of them." I had no sooner said it than my glass came to rest on a beautiful waxwing in just the right position fully to show the chestnut patch I had hopefully looked for during the past 30 years. Since Mrs. Jones had never seen one either, I rushed home and brought her over. Dennis had no trouble keeping them in sight. They were quite tame as is usual with the Cedar Waxwings.

They spent considerable time eating multiflora rose fruit, then they would usually fly across the road to the lake shore for a drink. Always they would take a turn in the large ash trees where they sat in the sunshine, very quiet and hard to find. A visit to the spot later that evening revealed two more birds added to the flock. The next day five also were seen again.

Dr. Christensen of Spencer was notified since it seemed a good chance for getting colored pictures, but when we met there Sunday afternoon the weather was all against any probability of finding the birds. The wind had changed to the south and was very cold and disagreeable. As we more or less expected, the birds had gone—as was the sun, so picture-taking was out of the question, anyway.

More recent observations have failed to turn up any Bohemian Waxwings at Swan Lake or at any other area that provided similar food and shelter.*

In going through back issues of the Iowa Bird Life from 1931 to the present issue, I find 17 references to Bohemian Waxwing observations. Since the food item stood out rather conspicuously, I shall give in some detail the food-eating references when given by the observers.

Vol. I, p. 8. In "Little Biographies," by Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, he quotes a story from Arthur J. Palas who reports seeing 5,000 of them March 18, 1923, feeding on hackberries and wild hemp on Walnut Creek between Des Moines and Valley Junction.

Vol. I, p. 11. Mrs. Arthur J. Palas reports 90-100 Bohemian Waxwings on bittersweet vines in Des Moines, January 2, 1931.

Vol. I, p. 12. Mrs. W. G. DuMont reports 61 Bohemian Waxwings on asparagus beds in Des Moines February 16, 1931.

Vol. II, p. 10. In a 1931 Bird-Lore Christmas census summary, Fred J. Pierce reports a Bohemian Waxwing seen at Sioux City.

Vol. II, p. 23. Paul S. Junkin, Fairfield, reported a flock of 17 in a clump of high bush cranberries March 8 to 15, 1932.

Vol. II, p. 25. "On March 7, 1932, five Bohemian Waxwings came to the feeding shelf for hemp seeds." Mrs. J. E. Stewart also reported them as eating Japanese barberry a week earlier.

Vol. III, p. 39. Wm. Youngworth lists it for March 4, 1930, among spring migration dates for Sioux City.

Vol. VI, p. 8. Mrs. R. W. Johnson lists it for February 13 in her 1935 spring migration dates for Dubuque.

Vol. VI, p. 48. "Charles J. Spiker in a walk of 55 miles on February 12, 13 and 14 observed. . . Bohemian Waxwings."

Vol. VII, p. 54. A "flock" reported for February, 1932, by Mrs. R. W. Johnson of Dubuque—"entertained at various apple trees over the city where neglected apples had hung through the winter."

Vol. VIII, p. 12. Mrs. Ray S. Dix of Cedar Falls reports Bohemian Waxwings in a flock of Cedar Waxwings for December 19, 1937, in a cedar grove.

Vol. XVI, p. 37. Pearl Knoop saw five Bohemian Waxwings September 27, 1945, at Marble Rock. The birds were feeding on elderberries.

* Since sending the foregoing notes to the Editor, the Bohemian Waxwings have made an impressive invasion into this territory and will no doubt be included in the Christmas census from a number of places. Locally they have more recently been seen at:

Swan Lake, 3, December 20, 1958, by Loren and M. L. Jones.
Ryan Lake, 54, December 21, 1958, by Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones (included in Christmas census).

Swan Lake, 58, December 27, 1958, by M. L. Jones.
Christopherson's Slough (2 miles northeast of Swan Lake), 35 (plus one Cedar Waxwing), December 27, 1958, by M. L. Jones.

Ryan Lake, 75, December 30, 1958, by M. L. Jones.
Swan Lake, 2, December 31, 1958, by M. L. Jones.
Ryan Lake, 70, January 7, 1959, by M. L. Jones.
Ingham Lake 120, January 7, 1959, by Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Wolden and Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones.—M. L. J.

Vol. XVII, p. 34. On February 10, 1947, Roy Ollivier of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, saw a flock of eight Bohemian Waxwings.

Vol. XVIII, p. 7. In the 1947 Christmas census two Bohemian Waxwings were reported by Dubuque observers on December 21.

Vol. XXIV, p. 13. The Sioux City Bird Club reported 10 Bohemian Waxwings in their 1953 Christmas bird census.

Vol. XXV, p. 11. Bohemian Waxwings were observed by F. W. Kent and Dr. P. P. Laude at Iowa City, December 31, 1954.

Vol. XXVIII, p. 15. In the 1957 Christmas census from Des Moines a lone Bohemian Waxwing was observed in a crabapple tree.

Hoping that Wm. Youngworth might have more recent records on the Bohemian Waxwing, I wrote him and he informs me (11-28-58) that his last record was for March 15, 1933. He says: "I had 15 records from 1930 to 1933, then nothing."

REPORT ON THE FALL PICNIC

By MYRLE M. BURK

Secy.-Treasurer

On Sunday morning, September 21, 1958, members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union drove to Lake Keomah State Park to be guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge on our annual fall picnic. They brought well-filled baskets of delicious food. Placed on the serving table, its abundance brought the impression that bird-watchers may have one of the attributes of growing birds. Quality was not lacking and the smoked carp and hot coffee served by Mr. and Mrs. Partridge added zest.

Mr. Moore presided at an informal meeting during the afternoon. Discussion centered on the coming legislation for an open hunting season on the Mourning Dove. These plans were discussed to oppose such legislation:

1) To send photographic copies of the editorial from the Des Moines Register to members of the legislature. 2) To send members of the legislature copies of the letter by former Senator Gillette which appeared in the Des Moines Register. 3) To contact the Resolutions Committee of the Farm Bureau. Miss Gladys Gray and Mrs. G. Adolph Johnson were appointed for the publicity committee. 4) To urge members of our Union to write personal letters (not petitions) to their respective legislators. 5) To urge women's clubs and garden clubs to be active in opposing passage of this law. 6) Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Ottumwa, was instructed to act as official representative of the Union at the public hearing on the Mourning Dove bill.

Dr. J. Harold Ennis discussed the sale of complete sets of Iowa Bird Life to libraries which wished to buy. He earlier requested the opinion of members of the Executive Committee. There are two complete sets on hand. Of the remaining sets many issues are missing. It was agreed not to sell a complete set to a foreign library at this time, and issues of which there are not more than four copies left should not be sold. Members having old issues are asked to send them to Dr. Ennis, if they no longer wish to keep them.

The stand of the members present on the use of water from running streams was expressed in the motion by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Steffen; Resolved, that the Union heartily endorse the stand of Bruce Stiles of the State Conservation Commission in opposing the use of water from rivers and other running streams for irrigation of private property.

Tentative plans were considered for holding the spring convention at Keokuk. Inquiry is to be made by the President concerning what co-operation may be obtained from interested organizations.

Attendance Register.—CEDAR RAPIDS, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Steffen; DES MOINES, Carl D. Brown, Gladys M. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Lester W. Has-

kell, Mrs. G. Adolph Johnson; DIAGONAL, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Turnbull; ESTHERVILLE, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nass; LAMONI, J. Donald Gillaspey, Jimmy Gillaspey; MOUNT VERNON, J. Harold Ennis; NEWTON, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Lair, Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Moore; OSKALOOSA, Bruce Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ovens, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge; OTTUMWA, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Pearle C. Walker; PLEASANTVILLE, Mrs. Wayne R. Black, Janice Dyer; UNION, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clemens; WATERLOO, Myrle M. Burk, Russell M. Hays, Margaret Nagel, Rhea Nagel, Pearl Rader. Total registered, 41.

GENERAL NOTES

The White-winged Crossbill Invasion in Southeastern Iowa, Winter of 1957-1958.—The winter season of 1957-1958 was characterized by an invasion of Pine Siskins, White-winged Crossbills, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. This note summarizes my observations on these and related species in Scott County.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. A group of four were first found in Fairmont Cemetery on December 7, 1957, and were last seen on January 19, 1958. A lone bird was observed at Duck Creek Park on March 4, 1958.

Pine Grosbeak. One female was seen at Fairmont Cemetery on December 15, 1957.

Pine Siskin. A flock of 50 was first found at Fairmount Cemetery on November 28, 1957. Flocks of as many as 200 individuals were found during the winter in this same area.

Red Crossbill. One male was collected on December 1, 1957. This was the only record for the season.

White-winged Crossbill. I collected a female on December 1, 1957, at Fairmount Cemetery. The following observations were made of this species for the remainder of the season: December 6, 6 birds; December 7, 1 male; December 8, 30 birds; December 14, 4 birds; December 15, 6 birds; December 29, 12 birds. The last time this species was observed was a group of 25 on January 12, 1958.—JAMES HODGES, 1514 East High St., Davenport, Iowa.

Fall Hawk Flight at Duluth.—September 12 and 13, 1958, made a fine week-end for me at Duluth, Minnesota, again this year. I was in the hills overlooking the city, but unfortunately missed the mass flight of Broad-winged Hawks on the first day as they passed near another point and were at great heights. Bob Cohen of Duluth saw approximately 6,000 hawks at his station while I saw only 600 on the road overlooking 45th Avenue. Strangely enough, while his birds were very high, mine were low over the valley and road and I got much better views. The hawks I saw were mostly Sharp-shins; his, mostly Broad-wings. At my point I saw about 200 Sharp-shins, 100 Broad-wings, and lesser numbers of Red-tails, Cooper's, Sparrow, Marsh and Osprey. The Sharp-shins put on a great show, as usual, and many times would be closely following large flocks of Blue Jays. The flocks of jays sometimes numbered more than 100.

On September 13 wind conditions were very bad but the good-sized group of observers saw more than 700 hawks and some Ravens. Included were 300 Sharp-shinned Hawks, some Cooper's, Sparrow and Broad-winged Hawks, one Goshawk, two Pigeon Hawks, and a dozen Marsh Hawks. While watching some Blue Jays dropping casually into the brush, several of us saw a streak of brown dive like lightning out of the sky and strike at a jay. However, the hawk missed and after a moment the jay struggled out of the brush and vanished.—RUSSELL HAYS, 825 Franklin St., Waterloo, Iowa.

Birds Seen on a Canoe Trip in Hamilton County.—On June 3, 1958, Donald Johnson, Edwin O. Willis, and I took a canoe trip down the Boone River from Bever Bridge (Independence Township, section 31) to Bell's Mill County Park (Webster Township, section 30) in Hamilton County. We kept a list of all the birds we saw and heard and recorded a total of 62 species.

The six most numerous species (number recorded given in parentheses) were: House Wren (44), Bank Swallow (24), Rough-winged Swallow (22), Cedar Waxwing (19), Mourning Dove (15), and Indigo Bunting (15).

The most interesting record was that of a Carolina Wren, which we first heard and then saw briefly. This species is probably near the northern edge of its breeding range in Hamilton County.

Other records of interest were: Traill's Flycatcher (4), Least Flycatcher (2), Olive-sided Flycatcher (2), Tufted Titmouse (5), Yellow-throated Vireo (3), Louisiana Waterthrush (2), and American Redstart (8).—DENNIS L. CARTER, 408 South Prairie Ave., Fairmont, Minnesota.

Townsend's Solitaire near Estherville.—On December 7, 1958, while checking up on the Bohemian Waxwings at Swan Lake (2 miles north of Superior in Dickinson County), a lone Townsend's Solitaire was sighted. It would seem that the bird had developed considerable thirst from eating fruit of the multiflora rose since it was observed making repeated thrusts into the fluffy snow caught in all crotches of trees and shrubs. It also made several short flights in the manner of flycatchers, but with the temperature down to zero, one would not expect insects to be active.

My first conclusion upon getting a good look at the white outer tail feathers, the white eye-ring, and the conformation of head and beak was that the bird was a Townsend's Solitaire. Unfortunately, I had taken the trip without my bird book, and before reaching home almost had myself convinced it was a Mockingbird. However, pictures and descriptions in various reference books left no doubt about its being Townsend's Solitaire.

The head appeared too short and blunt, more like that of a Phoebe. The white eye-ring just didn't fit my recollections of Mockingbirds, and the shorter, blunter tail of the Solitaire, which has white only on the sides, is quite unlike the long, white-tipped tail of the Mockingbird.

Hoping to get a witness to this observation, Mrs. Jones and I visited the area again on December 8 but found no bird life.

This small area of multiflora rose is only a mile south of the 400-tree, evergreen grove where White-winged Crossbills, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed several times last year, and it seemed logical to supplement the food supply at the Swan Lake public access area. So at least until after the Christmas bird census is taken, we shall try to keep out a supply of cracked walnuts and suet. After all, this tiny area has given me two birds to add to my life list during the past month.

One of the best things about the area is that it is only a few minutes' drive from our mail box. As a final attempt to include some one else on the observation list for mailing this record to our editor, Mrs. Jones and I checked the area once more on December 9. No birds of any kind could be seen in the first multiflora rose planting. It seemed unduly optimistic on a cold day, following a 26-below zero reading at Spencer, to look farther, but the planting at the east end of this access road was always checked before leaving the vicinity. This time it paid off. The Townsend's Solitaire flew across the trail in front of us and at no time during the next half hour was it as far as 100 feet from us. It lunched three times on the multiflora rose but spent most of its time sunning itself in the trees. It gave us a perfect opportunity to observe all markings, stretching and preening itself so as to fan the tail and even extend the right wing in a mighty stretch that fully exposed the buffy wing patch.

A few squeaks and whistles had seemed to bring forth "sympathetic vibrations" on December 7, so it was tried again and Mrs. Jones could hear him responding with a "whisper song" much after the manner of a Robin.

On December 12, Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Wolden of Estherville both saw the Townsend's Solitaire. It flew across in front of them, three times in and out of the multiflora rose.

The Solitaire was seen quite regularly to the end of December. It was not observed during the first week of January, 1959, and it is probable that it deserted the Swan Lake area where it was observed on the following dates: December 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 31, 1958.

We wondered if the competition by the Bohemian Waxwings for food influenced its leaving. On the December 31 observation the Solitaire was seen trying to drive two Bohemian Waxwings out of the area. It "dive-bombed" them in the tall trees, then attacked them in the multiflora rose not more than 6 feet above the observer at times.—M. L. JONES, Fort Defiance State Park, Estherville, Iowa.

Western Kingbird in Humboldt County.—Although I have found the Western Kingbird in southwest Iowa, I had never seen it in the north-central part of the state until Edwin O. Willis and I saw two in Humboldt County on June 4, 1958. Ed identified the first individual about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Hardy. This bird was flying away in a northeasterly direction. A little later we found what was probably another individual sitting on a wire along a road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north and 2 miles west of Hardy and had an excellent view of it. I visited this locality again on June 9 but found no Western Kingbirds, and the ones we saw may have been stragglers rather than breeding birds.—DENNIS L. CARTER, 408 South Prairie Ave., Fairmont, Minnesota.

Bird Records in Black Hawk County.—On November 13, 1958, while working on a cottage on the Cedar River near Cedar Falls, I saw a large bird drop into the river. I did not have my binoculars but as I approached, the bird dived and appeared far upstream a few seconds later. It was a Loon, my first record for this area. Dr. Grant and Dr. Robertson told me they have no fall records of this bird here, which makes it more interesting. On November 16, I had a fine field trip in the woods, which seemed full of birds—Slate-colored Juncos, Tree, Song and Fox Sparrows, many Ruby-crowned Kinglets, some Purple Finches, and an extremely brown junco that gave me a thrill. My list for the black Hawk Creek area is now 150, which number was reached when I saw a Herring Gull on a fall trip.—RUSSELL HAYS, 825 Franklin St., Waterloo, Iowa.

A Week-end at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge.—On the week-end of July 26 and 27, 1958, Dale Dickinson, Chester Doyle, Lewis Blevins and I camped at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Horicon, Wisconsin. We drove to the area Friday night so we would be able to get an early start on Saturday. On Saturday, July 26, we drove around the refuge by car. We rented a boat at Horicon on Sunday and spent most of the day exploring the marsh.

We recorded the following birds of special interest: Least Bittern, Black Duck, Pintail, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Black Rail (seen from 15 feet by all observers), Common Gallinule, Common Snipe, 11 Traill's Flycatchers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and 90 to 95 Swamp Sparrows. On our way home we saw a Bewick's Wren along the county road near Beloit. Our species total was 103, a good week-end for July.

If anyone is interested in visiting the refuge, which is about 50 miles northeast of Madison, I shall be glad to supply details on where to go and what to look for. The area is very good during migration as well as in summer.—PETER PETERSEN, JR., 620 East 30th St., Davenport Iowa.

Records of Mockingbird and Osprey.—I saw a Mockingbird in our front yard on June 9, 1958, the second one that I have seen here. My other record was October 10, 1949. I also saw my first Osprey in this part of the state. I saw one on the Des Moines River in Webster County in the summer of 1958. It circled overhead a few times and dived into the water but was unsuccessful in its attempt to catch a fish as it had nothing in its talons when it arose.—JIM KEENAN, Ogden, Iowa.

Winter Birds at Wheatland.—About 4 p.m., December 31, 1958, we were thrilled to see 12 species of birds on posts and in weeds along 50 feet of a fence between cornfields. They were: Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Chickadee, Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Tree, Harris', White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. At the same time in the woods across the graveled road were: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, House Sparrow.

Other species seen on December 27 and 31, 1958: Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Shrike (species?), Meadowlark—making our total 28 species—C. ESTHER COPP, Wheatland, Iowa.

Blackbirds and Other Birds in Grain Sorghum.—We need not be surprised if we hear of complaints by farmers about birds damaging their grain sorghum crop. The usual Iowa crops of oats and corn do not suffer great damage from birds. This is because oats ripens before many of the young birds are flying, and ears of corn are protected by several layers of tough husks. But each head of grain sorghum has hundreds of delicious bite-size kernels entirely exposed and ready for plucking. The grain ripens in September at the same time blackbirds and starlings are congregating into flocks and roving the countryside.

Around September 5 to 15 in 1957, enormous flocks of birds could be seen here in the fields of grain sorghum. They were mostly Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Starlings. A few Dickcissels and Meadowlarks were also in the flocks. And careful observation with binoculars on September 11 disclosed one Yellow-headed Blackbird among the thousands of birds on the swaying sorghum heads.—J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Route 3, Lamoni, Iowa.

Summer and Early Fall Records for the Davenport Area.—

King Rail. An adult and four young were seen in a wet roadside ditch about 2 miles west of McCausland, Scott County, July 12, 1958. The young were foraging for food and were about one-half grown. Fred and Maurice Leshner were with me at the time.

Common Gallinule. At Muskrat Slough, in Jones County, two broods of downy young were seen on August 24, 1958. The birds appeared to have been hatched within the previous week. There were about ten larger young present in that area at that time. On September 13, 1958, six or seven birds, four of them nearly full grown, were still present in the area.

Golden Plover. One was seen at Credit Island Harbor on September 6, 1958. The bird was flushed by Dennis Sheets and I to make the identification positive. The bird was in full plumage and had no black axillaries.

Black-bellied Plover. On September 7, 1958, just a day after seeing the Golden Plover, Dennis and I, accompanied by Jim Lewis, saw a Black-bellied Plover near McCausland on a nearly dry mud flat. We were quite sure of our identification, but flushed the bird and observed the black axillaries, white at base of tail and wing-stripe to be positive.

Baird's Sandpiper. I recorded this confusing shore-bird three times. On September 3, 1958, Mother and I saw three at Credit Island Harbor. On September 6, Dennis, Mother and I found one still present there. The next day we found two at McCausland. I also found this bird just across the Mississippi in Illinois on August 3. I believe the Baird's is a commoner migrant on the Mississippi than most observers report. I had the advantage of seeing it surrounded by other shore-birds for comparison of size. Its back pattern is quite distinctive, but I always flush the birds to be sure they are not White-rumped Sandpipers.

Dunlin. Two seen at Credit Island Harbor by Mother and me on August 25, 1958. Birds were observed in good light at about 100 feet with 20x scope. They were accompanied by two Silt Sandpipers and other common shore-birds.

Least Tern. On June 15, 1958, I sighted a flock of ten off the lower end of Credit Island from a boat in the Mississippi. These birds were observed for several minutes as they "fished" while flying upstream. Their small size and yellow bills were noted. My only other record—June 19—indicates these birds might easily be missed because of their late migration.

Henslow's Sparrow. One was seen near McCausland on September 9, 1958, by Fred Leshner and me. We observed the bird at 50 feet in sunlight with 20x scope for about ten minutes. It was an immature bird and we noted its small size, clear breast, rusty on the wing, and two marks just below the bill on each side.

Lincoln's Sparrow. One was seen September 6, 1958, at Enchanted Island, (about 2 miles below Credit Island). This is an early fall date, judging from my past records.—PETER PETERSEN, JR., 620 East 30th St., Davenport, Iowa.

Illinois Audubon Society Camp-out.—On September 20-21, 1958, the Tri-City Bird Club was host to the third annual Fall Camp-out of the Illinois Audubon Society, at Camp Archie Allen, Port Byron, Illinois. About 35 visitors plus 30 local members attended. There were field trips on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, with a program of slides and movies Saturday evening.

A total of 95 species of birds was seen for the two days. Of special interest was a flock of about 250 Broad-winged Hawks seen on September 21, flying at the limit of normal vision in a loose flock over the Mississippi River. Other uncommon birds seen included Osprey, Duck Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers and Connecticut Warbler.

On Saturday night seven of us took a boat upriver to the mouth of the Wapsipinicon and heard Screech and Barred Owls. This was a rather different and enjoyable field trip.

Among those present from Iowa were Pauline Wershofen and Eleanor Fullerton, of Cedar Rapids, and several people from Davenport. The camp-outs have been better attended and more enjoyable each year.—PETER PETERSEN, JR., 620 East 30th St., Davenport, Iowa.

NECROLOGY

Walter W. Barrett, who became a member of Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1951, died at Sioux City, Iowa, on December 26, 1958, after a brief illness. He was elected a member of our Executive Council at the May, 1952, meeting and served continuously since that time. With his wife, he attended many of our spring meetings.

Mr. Barrett was born at Camanche, Iowa, April 1, 1892, and lived in eastern Iowa until 1914, when he moved to Sioux City. He attended Morningside College and was a veteran of World War I. He married Helen Giehm of Sioux City in 1926. She and their daughter, Miss Ann Barrett, survive him.

An active bird student, Mr. Barrett enjoyed the sport of bird-watching and was president of the Sioux City Bird Club. He was an ardent sports fan and seldom missed an athletic event of any kind in his home city. Fond of track, particularly on the high school level, he was long active in the Greater Sioux City Athletic Association, serving on the board of directors and as an official at many Sioux City relays, one year as honorary referee.

He was a member of the Morningside Presbyterian Church, and various organizations including Tyrian Lodge 508, A.F. & A.M., Monahan Post 64 American Legion, the Izaak Walton League, and the DeMolay advisory board. His employment for many years was with a coal company, and he was with the Iowa Public Service Company for five years before his retirement last January.

Mr. Barrett's friendly presence and valuable counsel will be missed at future meetings of our Union.—F. J. P.

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

BIRDS OF MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, by Robert E. Stewart and Chandler S. Robbins (U. S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D. C., published as North American Fauna No. 62, 1958; paper binding, 8vo size, pp. i-vi+1-401, with one plate and 69 range maps; price \$1.75).

The Editor is grateful for an autographed copy which was sent by the authors. This book at once takes a place among the fine "State" bird books. It covers a region that is particularly rich in bird life and one that has been thoroughly worked by observers—famous names in ornithology, many of them—over a long period of years. Probably no area has been more extensively covered by experts than Washington, D. C. The mass of published documentary material would appall any but the most ambitious of compilers. The boiled-down result of a tremendous amount of work is this well-printed book.

Although based on systematic field work by the authors to a large extent, data from all readily available sources were used, from about 1860 to December 31, 1955, with important records through October, 1956, added to bring it up to date. The total list is 333 species; 19 additional birds are in the hypothetical classification. Each species is described on these points: status as a resident, migrant, etc. with distribution in the region, habitat, spring and fall migration dates, maximum counts by observers, and banding records. Much banding has been done, and many of the maps show where birds banded in Maryland have been recovered in various places in United States. A lengthy bibliography lists the important publications on the region, with such names as Audubon, Baird, Coues, Fisher and Ridgway recalling through the mist of years the work of early observers.—F.J.P.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dennis Carter received an appointment as a wildlife biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and began work on December 1, with headquarters at Denver, Colorado. He wrote that he hopes to attend our convention next May.

We have again been fortunate to receive a copy of the "Yearbook" of the Des Moines Audubon Society. As usual, the new issue (1958-1959) is attractive with colored cover and balanced make-up. It contains lists of officers, the field-trip schedule from September 27, 1958, through May 17, 1959, which is the date of the "May Morning Breakfast" (a high point in the spring activities), the program of lectures and indoor events, and the list of committees and members of the Society.

Pete Petersen, Jr. and Dennis Sheets, of Davenport, took a trip to the Gulf Coast from October 18 to 30. They saw 198 species of birds on the trip, including four Whooping Cranes (2 adult, 2 immature) at Aransas Refuge and a White-tailed Tropic-bird at Mobile Bay. They visited nine Fish & Wildlife Service refuges and 12 states. They reported the weather as fairly good, with a day and a half of rain, and the birding as very good, since each one added more than 40 species to his "Life List."

Mrs. Janetta A. DuMont, of Evanston, Illinois, upon being notified that she had been voted an Honorary membership at our May meeting, wrote to Secretary Burk under date of September 6, 1958:

"Thank you for your letter telling of the great honor the Iowa Ornithologists' Union has bestowed upon me. I am humbly grateful. Quite a coincidence—Toni Wendelburg, whom I promoted for Honorary membership, died at about the time I was given the same privilege—which makes it something like carrying on for Toni." Our continued good wishes to Mrs. DuMont.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lueshen, our members of Wisner, Nebraska, visited at the Editor's home in Winthrop one Sunday afternoon in September. They were enroute to a bird meeting at Fort William, Ontario. They also visited the Delta Waterfowl Research Station at Delta, Manitoba. They found the duck population down in Canada due to lack of rain. All migrations were somewhat early and many western species such as Avocets could be found at Delta this year—probably due to lack of water in Saskatchewan. There had been no Avocets at Delta since the '30's when it was also dry. The Lueshens had the added pleasure of an invitation to breakfast with Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson at Delta.

A "Campus Bird Count," participated in by 11 colleges and 6 sanctuaries in 1958, was sponsored by Sarah Lawrence College, of Bronxville, New York. Iowa members interested in this project may obtain further information as well as a 15-page leaflet giving results of the 1958 count by writing to Secy. Muriel Taylor in care of the above-named college. In the first count, major sections of the country were represented and tallies were received from Maine to Georgia and California; 221 species were recorded, consisting of 201 birds and 20 other vertebrates; the University of Georgia reported the most species, 93. Campuses ranged in size from 28 acres at Sarah Lawrence College to 600 acres at University of Redlands. Dates of the count were spread from April 27 to May 27. Qualified colleges, institutions and sanctuaries are invited to join in the 1959 count.

A NOTE FROM OUR SECRETARY-TREASURER

We have 30 new members since last May! Many of these became interested in the Union because of the enthusiasm and activity of our members. This is the 36th year of our society. Let's set a goal of 250 new members! More members will make a larger, better Iowa Bird Life with more illustrations. Ask Editor Pierce for membership application blanks. Send a new membership to the Secretary with your dues for 1959.

The new check-lists are now being printed and will soon be on sale. Prices will be as formerly PLUS POSTAGE: 2 for 5c; 2c each in lots of 50 or more. The postage for various size lots will be determined as soon as the check-lists are available and announced in the March issue of Iowa Bird Life.

Official Union shoulder patches for outdoor attire are available at \$1.00 each.

—MYRLE M. BURK.